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his journey back to the Danube was only a "night ride." Moldavia and its capital, Jassy, he does not notice at all.

Dr. Noyes's moralizing is rather forced, and does not harmonize very well with the dashing and sweeping style of his descriptions. His poetical quotations are intrusive, needless, and generally tasteless. His prose is good enough without such a foil.

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16. — *Annals of the American Pulpit; or Commemorative Notices of Distinguished American Clergymen of Various Denominations, from the early Settlement of the Country to the Close of the Year Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Five. With Historical Introductions.* By WILLIAM B. SPRAGUE, D. D. Vols. III. and IV. *Presbyterian.* New York: Robert Carter and Brothers. 1858. 8vo. pp. 632, 836.

ON the appearance of Dr. Sprague's former volumes we expressed our high sense of their worth, literary, biographical, and historical. They far surpassed our conception of the possibilities of such a work, and, though nominally of various and unequal authorship, they indicated throughout the compiler's consummate skill in fashioning to his purpose the often crude materials committed to his hands. All that we wrote then, we must now repeat, with still stronger emphasis. We feel ourselves—we are sorry to say so—among men of higher mark, in these new volumes, than in those which commemorated the Trinitarian Congregationalists. True, among the latter there were clergymen, from the earliest times, who had no superiors, and hardly any equals, this side of heaven; but among the leading divines of the Presbyterian Church we discern, as we think, a more uniformly elevated standard of distinctively clerical talent, learning, and character. One reason for this undoubtedly is, that the Presbyterian Church, occupying a much larger extent of territory, and reckoning, certainly for an entire century, if not longer, a more numerous catalogue of ministers, would, by the laws of proportion, furnish a greater array of choice names for the biographer. But this is not all. In New England, with the legal support secured for nearly two centuries to the Congregational clergy, and with the life-tenure of their office, many men occupied prominent pastorates while devoid of superior qualifications for their profession. Such ministers were generally men of strong minds, cogent influence, and distinguished reputation; and being literally the *parsons* (*personæ*) of their respective parishes,—wielding often an autocracy little short of despotism,—they had scope for the unchecked growth and exercise of eccentric traits of character and abnormal habits of life. And they

often acquired the local fame which would entitle them to a place in a record like Dr. Sprague's, by oddities rather than by graces, or by services and labors outside of their profession rather than by preaching and the cure of souls. Accordingly, the first two volumes of the "Annals" exceed these last two in variety of character and incident, in the affluence of piquant anecdote and grotesque description, and in the exhibition of the *many-sidedness* of ministerial life. Presbyterianism, on the other hand, never had a legal establishment in this country, but has been compelled to conquer by "the sword of the Spirit" all the ground it occupies. Its ministers have, for the most part, won and held their places because they were fitted for them, and laborious in them. With few exceptions they have given themselves wholly to their work, with such subsidiary avocations in teaching or agriculture as were necessary to eke out their support in new or feeble churches, and in sparsely settled districts. The circumstance that has impressed us most of all in these narratives, is the very large number of men of surpassing ability, endowments, and sanctity, who have been settled for life, or for many years, in very obscure localities and humble pastorates. And the "Annals" give us the name of hardly a single Presbyterian divine whose eminence was not solely or chiefly professional. These volumes, therefore, are a richer, more instructive, and more edifying contribution to *clerical* biography than their predecessors. The entire work, when completed, will constitute, we believe, the most copious series of detailed biographies ever dedicated to a single profession, collected under one title, or brought together by the industry of any one author or compiler.

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17. — *The New American Cyclopædia: a Popular Dictionary of General Knowledge.* Edited by GEORGE RIPLEY and CHARLES A. DANA. Vol. I. *A — Araguay.* New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1858. 8vo. pp. 752.

WE intend, in the progress of this great national work, to give it a thorough examination as to its positive and comparative merits. Our present limits will permit us to note but a few of its prominent features. The first point of interest is its copiousness. A contemporary journal informs us that this volume contains 2,531 articles, — "more than twice the number in the corresponding portion of the 'Americana,' and nearly a half more than in the last edition of the 'Conversations-Lexikon.'" As regards accuracy, our own verification under a few heads would furnish a very inadequate testimony, which, however, is confirmed, so